



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,655	03/19/2001	Stephen C. Schulz	35013.5100	2511

7590 12/18/2003
SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
ONE ARIZONA CENTER
400 EAST VAN BUREN
PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2202

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, GEORGE BINH MINH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3723

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/812,655

Applicant(s)

SCHULZ ET AL.

Examiner

George Nguyen

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,8-14 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7,19, and 21-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of Applicant's amendment filed on August 11, 2003.

Claims 1-5, 7, 15-19, and 21-30 are presented for examination.

Claims 6, 8-14, and 20 were withdrawn from further consideration.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 09, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

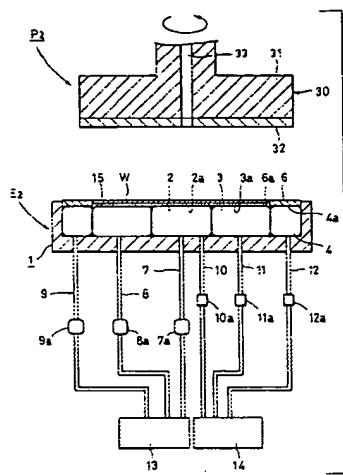
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi'6,135,858 in view of Rhoades'5,187,899.

With reference to Fig. 6, col. 6, line 50 to col. 7, line 23, Takahashi teaches a rotational vibratory polishing motions being applied to a wafer. However, Takahashi is silent about the amplitude and frequency of the vibration.

Art Unit: 3723

FIG. 6



With reference to col. 1, line 55 to col. 5, line 15, Rhoades teaches that it is known to have utilized high frequency/low amplitude vibrational polishing in combination with a slurry to obtain a high surface finish polish without the loss of resolution or detail.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of polishing in Takahashi with the teaching of high frequency/low amplitude vibrational polishing as taught by Rhoades, since Rhoades states at col. 3, lines 55-61 that such a modification would obtain a high surface polish without the loss of resolution or detail.

Regarding to the range of amplitude and high frequency set forth in the claims, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized such range, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5, 7, 19, and 21-30 are allowed.

Art Unit: 3723

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the specific limitations of "means for imparting ... a support frame" in the combination as claimed in claim 5, "offsetting the orbital axis ... when the pad orbits" in the combination as claimed in claim 7, "the platen coupled to at least ... to about 10,000 rpm" in the combination as claimed in claim 21, and "means for imparting ... about 2.0 mm" in the combination as claimed in claim 23 are not anticipated nor made obvious by the prior art of record in the examiner's opinion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Talieh'080 and Takahashi'805 disclose rotational vibratory polishing motions.

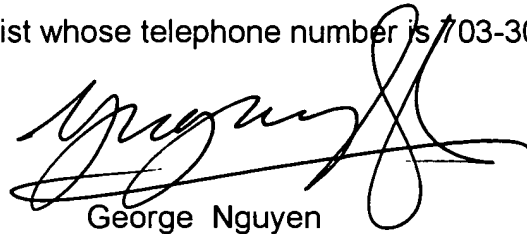
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-308-0163. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday/630AM-300PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 703-308-2687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-305-3579.

Art Unit: 3723

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1078.

George Nguyen
Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Nguyen', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

George Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3723

GN – December 12, 2003